

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN 2498

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105010

FOL REPEAT MANILA 4569 SENT ACTION SECSTATE APRIL 11

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4569

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE SUGAR SWINDLE

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY MR. I. CHET PERRY, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND HIS ASSOCIATE, MR. JORN NORDMANN, A GERMAN CITIZEN, FOR ASSISTANCE IN EXTRICATING THEMSELVES FROM ALLEGED FINANCIAL DAMAGE FROM ALLEGED FRAUD. ACCORDING TO PERRY AND NORDMANN THEY WERE CONVINCED BY A MR. DHEN SOO SONG, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WITH OFFICES IN GUAM THAT THE LATTER'S PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATES LED BY FORMER ILOCOS NORTE CONGRESSMAN ANTONIO V. RAQUIZA, WERE IN A POSITION TO EXPORT SUGAR FROM THE PHILIPPINES. SUBSEQUENTLY, MR. PERRY AND MR. NORDMANN LEARNED THAT MR. SONG AND HIS ASSOCIATES DID NOT HAVE THE INFLUENCE THEY CLAIMED.

2. MR. PERRY AND MR. NORDMANN SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS IN THE PHILIPPINES TRYING TO PERSUADE THE PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES TO SELL SUGAR TO THEIR BUYER, WESTZUCKER
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GMBH OF WEST GERMANY, ON TERMS COMPARABLE TO THOSE

NEGOTIATED WITH MR. SONG. THEY REPORTED BEING OFFERED SUGAR AT PREVAILING MARKET PRICES WHICH THEY SAID WERE UNACCEPTABLE.

3. MR. PERRY AND MR. NORDMANN COMPLAINED STRONGLY ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST THEM IN ALLEGED WIDE COMPLICITY WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN THE SWINDLE PERPETRATED UPON THEM. AT VARIOUS TIMES THEY EXPRESSED FEAR OF PHYSICAL HARM AND REQUESTED EMBASSY AND POLICE ASSISTANCE. TO EMBASSY'S BEST KNOWLEDGE, THEY HAVE DEPARTED THE PHILIPPINES WITHOUT INJURY.

4. MR. PERRY AND MR. NORDMANN THREATENED WIDELY TO EXPOST SUGAR SWINDLE ABROAD AND TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST A NUMBER OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHOM THEY ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY. EMBASSY IS NOT SURE HOW SERIOUS THESE THREATS WERE BUT WISHES TO ALERT DEPARTMENT TO POSSIBILITY OF INQUIRIES BY OR ON BEHALF OF PERRY AND NORDMANN. EMBASSY ALSO POUCHING MEMORANDUM WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

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